and (b) Area Welfare Officers are appointed by the Government for a term of two years from the date of appointment or till the services of the Officers are required by the Government or till the Officer retires or resigns from service whichever is earlier. The duties and functions of Area Welfare Officers which are largely official in nature are performed on an honorary and voluntary basis. Only, in one case, due to mis-representation, one Area Welfare Officer continued beyond his date of retirement. Action has been taken to discontinue his appointment as an Area Welfare Officer.

(c) The Area Welfare Officers are permitted to use office stationery and service postage stamps and are allowed to leave office with permission of the appropriate authority for meeting various civic|police authorities for solving problems of the residents of his area.

Use of lands in Poonch and Rajouri districts for defence purposes

1715. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proprietory and occupancy lands of the inhibitants of Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu and Kashmir is being used for defence purpose for over a quarter century;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) what rent is being paid or is payable category-wise in respect of such lands;

(d) what are the arrears of rent and by when the same are likely to be paid to the land holders; and

(e) whether Government propose to acquire such lands in view of the Supreme Court Judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Stoppage of construction of road in Jammu

1716. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the Road from Gool via Budhal to Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir was taken by the General Reserve Engineering Force in 1980 as the same is of strategic importance for the defence of the area and a sum of Rs. 7.00 crores was spent on it till March, 1980;

(b) whether it is a fact that the General Reserve Engineering Force has stopped the work since 1983 as result the work has come to a standstill; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the work on the said Road for the benefit of the defence and general public in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The road Gool-Mohar-Budhal was approved in March 1978 for construction by Border Roads Organisation. The expenditure incurred upto 31.3.88 was Rs. 830.00 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, certain special repairs were done during 1988-89 and the road was open for traffic.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Recipients of kickbacks paid by M|s. A. B. Bofors

1717. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the action taken so far by Government for finding out the names of recipients of kickbacks paid by M|s. A. B. Bofors in connection with sale of 155 mm Howitzer guns; and

(b) what has been the outcome thereof?